

time and a longtime personal friend, Oscar Brown, Jr. Throughout his life, Oscar defied convention not only by blurring the lines between art and activism, but by consistently and passionately articulating a message of hope, freedom and equality for all people. Oscar passed away on May 29, 2005, in his hometown of Chicago, Illinois.

A performer from an early age, Oscar was known for acting his songs as much as for singing them. Through the popularity of songs like "Brown Baby" and "Signifyin' Monkey," he became known for his use of art as a way to celebrate African-American culture and to denounce racism.

I met Oscar during the early 1970s in Oakland, California. I was amazed at his profound sense of history, his insight and clarity on the root causes of racism and economic exploitation, and his "bold defiance" of all that was corrupt. He often spoke of his deep love for and dedication to his family. A man of tremendous strength, dignity and sensitivity, Oscar Brown, Jr. was a man for all seasons.

Oscar wrote a number of plays that addressed the issues of cultural politics and social division, and made those expressions even more powerful through his regular inclusion of Chicago youth in their casts. One of his best known plays was "The Great Nitty Gritty," which focused on gang problems in Chicago and featured a number of local teenagers onstage and in the production process.

Oscar remained a cultural force in Chicago throughout his life, and is credited with inspiring or influencing countless artistic careers. His bright spirit touched and improved the lives not only of those he knew and mentored, but of the countless others who found hope, purpose and pride through his work.

I was in Los Angeles on December 4, 2004, and learned that Oscar was performing locally. My spirit led me to go see him perform, not knowing that this would be the last time I would see and hear this great genius. After a magnificent performance, I went backstage and we talked and reminisced, and in his unique way, he gave me his candid critique of the United States government and the critical issues facing us. He was excited when I invited him to be my guest at the upcoming Congressional Black Caucus dinner in September, and again talked about his love for his family.

On June 24, 2005, Oscar's family and friends will gather to celebrate his extraordinary life. Oscar was a visionary thinker, a cultural legend, and political guru. My life, like the lives of many, has been enriched by my friend: the great, the magnificent, Oscar Brown, Jr. He will be deeply missed.

HONORING THE SERVICE OF KAREN C. BROOKE

HON. JANE HARMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 15, 2005

Ms. HARMAN. Mr. Speaker, perhaps the only good thing to come out of Congressman Max Sandlin's defeat in the November election was that it brought his long-time staffer Karen Brooke to the Intelligence Committee as Minority Executive Assistant—where her good humor, good will and remarkable institutional knowledge were instant assets.

Much to our dismay, Karen has decided to retire after 30 years of loyal and dedicated service to the U.S. government, the House, and most recently, to the Committee.

Except for a year at the State Department, Karen's entire career has been spent in the Legislative Branch working for four different Members from four different parts of the country until joining the Committee staff. She is a pleasure to be around, and everyone has benefitted from her professionalism, efficiency, her meticulous approach to every task, and her ability to make it all look so easy.

Through it all, Karen Brooke has somehow found the time to dote on her wonderful husband John, and together they have raised two great children—daughter Adrienne and son Anthony. On behalf of the Members and staff of the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, I extend our congratulations and wish her and her family the very best as they begin this new, exciting chapter of life.

RECOGNIZING JEANNE DAFFRON, PH.D.

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 15, 2005

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Jeanne Daffron Ph.D. Dr. Daffron is Assistant Vice President for Academic and Student Affairs at Missouri Western State College in Saint Joseph, Missouri and in a few days will receive the Saint Joseph YWCA Women of Excellence Award for Women in the Workplace.

Dr. Daffron received her undergraduate degree and doctorate in nursing from Texas Woman's University. For nineteen years she served as a faculty member in the nursing department at Missouri Western, and later served as chair of the department and Dean of Professional Studies for seven years. Recently, Dr. Daffron was appointed Assistant Vice President of Academic and Student Affairs. She is a member of the International Honor Society of Nursing, as well as the Missouri Nurse Association. In 1999, she was recognized by her alma mater as one of its "Distinguished Alumna." In 2004, Dr. Daffron was selected by students as the "Outstanding Honors Program Faculty Member."

In addition to her career at Missouri Western, Dr. Daffron has served in a number of leadership positions throughout the greater Saint Joseph community. She currently serves on the Board of Directors for Heartland Regional Medical Center Foundation, Leadership Northwest Missouri, and Junior Achievement, and served as only the second female chair of the Saint Joseph Area Chamber of Commerce. Dr. Daffron is also Co-Chair of the Higher Education Division for the United Way, and is a member of the Saint Joseph Community Plan Board. She was appointed by Governor Blunt to a three-year term on the State of Missouri Life Science Research Board as well.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in recognizing Jeanne Daffron, Ph.D. Her commitment to Saint Joseph exemplifies the qualities of service and dedication. I am honored to represent her in the United States Congress.

HONORING THE EFFORTS OF FLICK SEED COMPANY

HON. IKE SKELTON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 15, 2005

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Speaker, it has come to my attention that the Flick Seed Company, Kingsville, MO, has received an Honorable Mention award from Region Seven of the Environmental Protection Agency. This is the second time in as many years that Flick Seed has been recognized for its environmental awareness.

Since Steve Flick founded Flick Seed more than twenty years ago, he and his company have worked with state, municipal, and federal agencies, as well as private businesses to restore the original ecosystems that once covered Missouri and the rest of the Midwest. Steve is a graduate of the University of Missouri at Columbia and has put his agriculture degree to good use with the founding of Flick Seed Incorporated.

Flick Seed has worked tirelessly to keep seed waste out of the landfills. They have done this by combining seed waste with office paper waste and creating pellets that are used in pellet burning stoves. This work has not only kept our landfills from becoming full of seed waste, but it has provided a unique and innovative form of renewable energy.

I know that my fellow House members will join me in congratulating Flick Seed Company for its recognition by the Environmental Protection Agency.

TRIBUTE TO JUDY SCHNEIDER

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 15, 2005

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise to commend one of my constituents, Judy Schneider, on receiving the Women in Government Relations 2004 Distinguished Member Award.

Ms. Schneider is a specialist on Congress at the Congressional Research Service (CRS), a department of the Library of Congress, and an adjunct scholar at The Brookings Institution. She worked previously for Senate and House committees, including the Senate Select Committee to Study the Senate Committee System. Ms. Schneider is a frequent speaker and lecturer on Congress and legislative procedures. She holds a bachelor's and master's degree from The American University. Ms. Schneider is also co-author of the Congressional Deskbook, a comprehensive resource tool frequently used by Congress and Lobbyists.

Ms. Schneider is well known on Capitol Hill by Members of Congress, staff, lobbyists and others as "The person" for information on numerous topics including House, Senate and Committee Procedure.

Ms. Schneider has been a long time friend of WGR. Valuing Ms. Schneider's dedication and support for the organization, she was granted Emeritus Member status in 2004. Emeritus Membership status is reserved for